McGill University Libraries
280M G86 Cutter
Inaugural address of His Worship, Jacque
3 000 725 456 J

McGILL
UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY

Etudes
sur le Canada français
FRENCH CANADA
STUDIES

1082

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

OF

HIS WORSHIP

JACQUES GRENIER, ESQ.

MAYOR OF MONTREAL

DELIVERED

MARCH 11TH, 1889

5.—

TO THE ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF MONTREAL.

Gentlemen,

In taking possession of the civic chair, my first duty, it seems to me, is to express to the citizens of Montreal my most sincere thanks for the honor they have conferred upon me, by elevating me, as they did, so spontaneously and with such unanimity, to the high office of Mayor and Chief Magistrate of this city.

I am not unmindful, neither, of the deep sense of gratitude I owe to my esteemed colleagues in the Council, for the flattering testimony and inestimable mark of confidenee with which they honored me, when about to sever my connection with them, in my capacity of alderman.

I am pleased to see so many of the Aldermen who have undergone a re-election again occupying a seat in the Council, and hail the fact as an endorsement by the citizens at large of the policy followed by the civic government, and a guarantee that the interests of the City will be faithfully and honestly guarded.

While I did not aspire to the honor of being your repre-

538188

sentative in the civic chair, diffident as I was, and as I still am, of my ability to properly perform the responsible duties attached to so exalted a position, yet, I appreciate that honor far more, from its being the spontaneous offering of the citizens generally, without distinction of creed or nationality. But, believe me, Gentlemen, I should never have thought of assuming this chair, had I not reason to believe that I possessed some claim on your confidence, and could count upon your cooperation and assistance in every measure calculated to promote the welfare of our city and the prosperity of its inhabitants.

Besides, the office of Mayor has been so ably and so worthily administered by my immediate predecessor in office, during his too short stay among us, that I realize how much of your forbearance and cooperation will be required in the proper performance of the varied duties pertaining to my position.

You may rest assured, however, that whatever ability and experience I possess, will, in my new sphere of action, be devoted to what I believe to be the best interests of our city, and to a wise, economical, impartial, and honest administration of its affairs.

RETROSPECTIVE VICCO.

In ascending these steps to take the chair, I am forcibly reminded of the day that I first entered the Council in 1857, when the mayor and members elect were unosten-

tatiously installed in the old City Hall—or rather—in the upper part of Bonsecours Market.

Wonderful changes in every direction have since then taken place, and I believe I don't exaggerate in saying that the population, during that period, has more than doubled and its revenue more than quadrupled.

In casting my eyes over the outskirts of the City, I see that what was *then* but vacant land and open fields, is *now* entirely covered with good, substantial and elegant buildings, inhabited by an industrious, sober and enterprising population.

Coming nearer the centre of the City, I see quite a number of streets in which none but private dwellings *then* existed, *now* exclusively used for stores or shops.

Manufactures and extensive warehouses have, in the course of time, sprung up in every section of the City, whilst our trade and commerce, with the powerful aid of our great lines of steamships and railways, have gone on increasing every year.

On the whole, we have therefore just cause for congratulation and may be proud of the position which, thanks to the intelligence and spirit of enterprise of its leading citizens, Montreal has reached in the steady progress of its development.

No more striking evidence of the growth and material wealth of the city could be adduced than the following:

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEARS 1857 AND 1888.

	1857	1888
AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATIONS:	$	$
From ordinary revenue	248434	1590921
From Water Works	69600	584952
Cash on hand	8680	
Excess of appropriation over revenue, to be provided for hereafter	75826	
	$402540	$2175873
TO BE APPROPRIATED AS FOLLOWS:	$	$
Finance (interest, &c.)	285856	1002818
Roads (for ordinary expenditure)	28000	280000
" (for contracts of last year)	22455	
Police	33579	174000
Recorder's Court	.....	8700
Fire	20000	115400
Fire Alarm Telegraph	.....	9000
Inspection of Buildings	.....	2100
" of Boilers	.....	1800
Water	10198	90000
Markets	6800	24000
Light	12992	85000
City Hall	2660	26000
Health	.....	75000
Parks and Ferries	.....	6000
Mount Royal Park	.....	15000
Reserve Fund	.....	34496
School Tax	.....	170000
	$402540	$2119114

Prominent among the principal public improvements which have successively been made by the Corporation during my time, I may mention:

1. The establishment of the present Water Works;
2. The establisment of the Mount Royal, St. Helen's and Logan Farm's Parks;
3. Cheap communication by tramways;
4. Re-organization of the Fire department, with the Fire Alarm Telegraph as an adjunct;
5. Re-organization of the Health department, with an efficient system of vaccination;
6. Erection of the new City Hall;
7. Opening of new streets and widening of old ones;
8. Improved sewerage system;
9. Extension of the City limits;
10. Public Abattoirs; and more recently
11. Improved system for the removal and disposal of house refuse and night-soil by incineration;
12. Granolithic sidewalks and asphalt pavement;
13. The lighting of the City by electricity; and (last though not the least)
14. The suppression of inundations.

I pride myself in having had occasion to take an active part in the carrying out of those improvements, and, that they were all brought to a successful issue, is to me as it is no doubt to you all, a source of great satisfaction.

FUTURE PROSPECTS.

But, while we have reason to congratulate ourselves upon what has been done in the past, and should be thankful to Divine Providence for the blessings it has unsparingly bestowed upon us, we must not forget that there is yet much to do before Montreal has achieved the posi-

tion it is no doubt destined to occupy as the metropolis and chief commercial city of the Dominion.

Before dwelling, however, upon the subject of future improvements it behoves me, in conformity with established usage, to submit to you a statement of the affairs of the City, as briefly as is consistent with the communication of such information, in regard to the various departments, as may seem useful for your guidance; and to make such suggestions for your consideration, as may be conducive to the interest, prosperity and well being of our fair City.

FINANCES.

This year has witnessed the inauguration of a new system in our civic finances.

Instead of having to approach the Legislature for specific authority to borrow on every occasion that the Council might resolve to carry out a new improvement, the funded debt of the city has now been definitely limited to a maximum within which the Council may operate in the extension of the water-works, drainage, street improvement and other permanent works: subject to the passing of by-laws regulating the manner and limiting the amount of each successive issue.

The limit of the borrowing powers, thus fixed, is fifteen per cent of the assessed value of the real estate of the city: a limitation which is at once more business like and elastic inasmuch as it confines the debt to a small percentage of the value of the property on which it is a lien, while it admits of a gradual increase in keeping with its growth.

An important feature of the change is, that it substitutes the principle of absolute redemption in lieu of sinking funds for maturing debentures, making it imperative upon the city to retain, at all times, unissued, a portion of the fifteen per cent equivalent to the annual cost of all outstanding issues.

The maximum of the borrowing power, based on the valuations of 1888, was estimated at $16,500,000: which, under the restrictions mentioned, gave a margin of about $4,250,000 to issue for the requirements of the immediate future.

The Council having decided to issue this portion, in the form of a three per cent sterling loan, a deputation consisting of the Mayor, Chairman of Finance and City Treasurer proceeded to London for the purpose of submitting it upon the money market there, and the result of their negotiations, which was laid before you at the time, was considered in the highest degree satisfactory.

The amount of our funded debt as it stood prior to these negotiations $13,150,000, costing annually in interest and sinking fund over $810,000.

The application of the accumulated sinking fund, made admissable by the changes alluded to, reduced the total of $13,150.000 to $10,750,000.

The issue of £840,000 sterling three per cent, raises this latter amount to a grand total of about $15,000,000, costing annually $660,000 or $150,000 less than in 1888, with four million dollars more to spend, and just as rapidly as the old 5% 6% and 7% debentures mature, and are replaced by the consolidated three per cent, will this annual saving increase or, in other words, the interest cost diminish. This will appear more clearly by a reference to the following figures:—

Statement.

Limit of Debt at 15 % on	$110,000,000	
		$16,500,000
Funded Debt of 1888.....	13,150,000	
Accumulated Sinking Fund.....	2,400,000	
Leaving a nett debt of, say.....	10,750,000	

For which must be reserved a portion of the 16,500,000 sufficient to represent its annual cost at present rates, say.....			12,250,000
Leaving a present available margin of, say....			4,250,000

Interest Account.

The interest and sinking fund called for by the 13,150,000 as provided in the appropriations of 1888 was, say.....			$810,000
The interest on the nett debt after applying the sinking fund is as follows:			
On $ 600,000	permanent 7 %.....	$ 42,000	
" 270,000	terminable 7 %.....	18,900	
" 1,366,900	" 6 %.....	82,015	
" 5,429,813	" 5 %.....	271,491	
" 3,075,300	" 4 %.....	123,012	
10,742,013		537,417	
To which add 3 % on £840,000 stg..		122,640	say 660,000
Shewing a diminution of.....			$150,000

This result, it is true, has been attained chiefly by the demission of the sinking fund; but those who have given most thought to that process of providing for debt on one hand, while continuously issuing new liabilities with the other, have come to the conclusion that it is a very illusory method for either present reduction or final extinction; and that the plan which fixes the limit of issue to a fixed percentage of the collateral is safer to the lender while it enables the borrower to avail himself of any opportunity which may present itself to substitute a lower for a higher interest bearing security.

Moreover a time had come when the revenue of the city

was inadequate to the many exceptional demands which were made upon it; it was generally felt that vast and comprehensive measures were requisite to meet its rapid development and facilitate the requirements of its commerce; and some means of finding additional revenue was imperative.

I am not prepared to say that all the contemplated improvements can be effected without a slightly increased taxation in addition to the relief afforded the revenue in this direction, but it will tend to mitigate such increase or at least postpone it for some time to come.

The £840,000 stg., issued to represent the four and one quarter million of available margin, having been placed at an average of about 95 %, will nett, in round figures, after allowing all charges, £684 stg, or $3,330,000; out of which is to come the following accounts:

Bonds maturing in 1888-89, for which provision was made in calculating the amount of issuable margin	697,000
Water Works extension in 1888	250,000
Street Paving through Road Dept., 1888	110,000
Main Sewerage " "	45,000
Inundation Com., disbursements, "	155,000

And the Council has already sanctioned the following works:

Intercepting Sewer, say	150,000
Asphalting and Flagging Notre Dame street, (completing)	100,000
Widening of St. Lawrence Main street	400,000
Paving of Craig and William streets	368,000
Water Works pipe laying	75,000
Making a total of	2,350,000

already forestalled, to say nothing of the numerous street

improvements and small sewers constantly going on which, though for the most part reimbursable by special assessment, have to be paid out of this fund for the present and a considerable portion of which will ultimately have to be borne by it.

All this shews that while we may be congratulated on the sound financial position in which we find ourselves at the moment it will only be by a cautious and prudent policy that we can make it permanently beneficial, and I cannot view without alarm the disposition manifested in some quarters to launch into extravagant expenditure as if these proceeds were an almost inexhaustible fund.

I trust the majority of the members of the Council will sustain me, as I shall certainly assist them, in endeavoring to confine their expenditure to what will most truly benefit the City and facilitate its trade and commerce.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

The revenue of the past year was.....	$2,095,411
and the unexpended balance of the previous years receipt was.....	27,409
Making a total of.....	$2,122,820
The expenditure of the year was.....	$1,849,176
Leaving an unexpended balance available for appropriation in 1889 of.....	273,644

The estimated revenue of 1889, based on the actual collections of 1888, added to the unexpended balance shewn above, gives a total sum of $2,369,055 available for the general and ordinary operations of the present year. This, with a diminished liability of $150,000 on the in-

terest account should be more than ample for all the requirements.

I say more than ample because it includes an altogether abnormal "unexpended balance of cash" from the previous year, arising from the fact, already stated, that the payment of the sinking fund was transferred from "revenue" to "capital" account after the appropriations of the year had been made, and consequently no such item will occur again.

In view of this I would sound the same note of warning which I did while treating of the balance pertaining to "capital" account and would strongly recommend that this sum of $273,644 should be spread over three or four years instead of being all appropriated in 1889.

If this is not done it is greatly to be feared that the amount available for 1890 will fall short of the requirements which would have been established by the present years figures.

The Reports of the officers of the Finance department which will shortly be put into your hands, will furnish all other details.

ROAD DEPARTMENT.

Large sums of money have been appropriated to the Road Committee of late years which were spent in improving the streets and sidewalks, the drainage, &c.

Latterly a step has been taken in the right direction by the adoption of durable material such as block-stone, wooden-block and asphalt for the roadways and granolithic for sidewalks; an improvement that is likely to prove greatly beneficial and which should be extended as the means at the disposal of the City will admit.

I trust the Committee will lose no time in giving effect to the resolution of the Council with respect to the paving of Craig and William streets; the first with wooden

blocks and the latter with blockstone: although I would have preferred stone blocks in both cases.

I would also urge the prosecution of the upper level intercepting sewer for the construction of which the Road Committee obtained authority from the Council on the 12th May last. A small portion only was done last summer, and in view of the importance of this work, it is to be hoped the Committee will use every exertion to bring it to as speedy a completion as possible.

Although much has been done for a few years past in opening and widening streets I would strongly urge upon the Council the expediency of extending Sherbrooke, Ontario and Mignonne streets eastwardly as far as the City limits.

These extensions have become a necessity on account of the large increase of population in that section of the City occasioned by the extensive workshops of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the establishment of new manufactures and the proposed enlargement of the harbour.

POLICE.

This department, under its new chief, seems to have performed its duties so far, with a degree of efficiency that augurs well for the future.

The present numerical strength of the force, however, is acknowledged to be much below what the public interests demand. I hope the means at the disposal of the Council, this year, will admit of such an increase being made to the force as will be commensurate with the wants of the City in that respect.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The past year has been an eventful one for our fire department.

The severe and disastrous fires that took place last winter and the heavy losses entailed upon the fire insurance companies, induced them to call in question the competency and qualifications of the chief of the brigade and the efficiency of the force.

This led to a great deal of discussion, recrimination and investigation between the Fire Committee and the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association, pending which the latter thought proper to increase the rates of insurance.

In the mean time propositions were made to the Corporation by the Association with a view to effect certain changes and improvements in the organization of the Fire department; and after a protracted correspondence, the Association, as you are aware, signified their assent to what had been done in the way of improving the brigade, and agreed to restore the rates to what they were prior to the difficulties aforesaid.

Now that the force has been well, if not fully equipped, and with a new chief at its head, the public naturally expect that it will be able to cope successfully with its terrible foe; and it is to be hoped that their expectations will not fail to be realized.

It should be borne in mind, however, that with our severe climate, and the many drawbacks and impediments incidental thereto, our brave and gallant firemen are often times put to great disadvantage and meet with insurmountable difficulties in the execution of their duty, for which they should not be held responsible.

WATER WORKS.

The daily increasing consumption of water has given rise lately to doubts as to the capacity of the aqueduct, in the near future, to furnish the City with an adequate supply of water.

The Council and the public will perhaps besurprised to learn that, at the present moment, the City may be exposed to be put on short allowance, owing to the fact that in the present state of the aqueduct with its thick coat of ice and the consequent stoppage of the wheels, the City is entirely dependent for its supply, upon the two Worthington engines and that, should a break down occur to the larger one now in use, whilst the wheels are idle, the supply would be insufficient.

Such, however, is the fact as appears by the accompanying report of Mr. McConnell, acting superintendent of the Water Works, under date of the 25th February ultimo.

It is obvious therefore that the time has come when the Council should seriously consider the question of completing the enlargement of the aqueduct, by means of which the City would obtain an ample supply of water for all time to come.

The Water Committee, fully alive to the wants of the City in that regard, wisely came before the Council last year with a report recommending that, as a preliminary step, they be authorized to acquire the necessary land for the proposed enlargement.

This report was referred to the Finance Committee and kept over pending the negotiations for the new loan. Now that this loan has been secured it is to be hoped that the Finance Committee will take the matter up at one of their first meetings.

MARKETS.

Our public markets, under the wise supervision of the Market Committee are kept in good order, and continue to yield to the City a good revenue.

I regret to say, however, that, as regards the private stalls, great difficulty was experienced last year in the collection of the license fee, owing to the factious opposi-

tion offered by the holders of these stalls, to the by-law by which they are governed; notwithstanding the fact that this by-law has on more than one occasion been attacked before, and held to be good and valid by the Courts.

Now that the upper part of Bonsecours Market has been vacated by the Militia authorities, I presume it could be made available for market purposes, and produce a revenue that would soon more than cover the cost of the improvements.

The Market Committee, I am sure, will not fail to take up the matter and to come before the Council with a well devised plan to attain the object in view.

CITY HALL.

I am glad to say that there is good ground to hope that the long expected construction of an *elevator* in the City Hall will be carried into execution during the present year, an improvement which, I am sure will be hailed with satisfaction not only by the Members and officers of the Council, but by all those who have occasion to visit the City Hall.

I take this opportunity to suggest to whom it may appertain, that care should be taken to keep the interior of the building at all times in a clean and healthy condition.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Public health is so intimately connected with the prosperity of the City, that it is a fit subject for our particular attention.

Upon this department devolves the duty of promoting by all possible means the health of the City, and of checking and preventing the endemic and epidemic diseases to which we are exposed.

The operations of the Board of Health during the past

year have been characterized by an earnest and well directed energy, as will appear by the statistics furnished by the department.

During the past year small-pox prevailed in some cities of the United States and of the Province of Ontario, and even penetrated into certain part of our own Province. Yet, although no interruption occurred in the commercial relations existing between the infected parts and the City, we were preserved from the contagion.

The good understanding between our Health department and the Provincial Board of Health has resulted in the adoption of precautionary measures so efficacious that the disease was confined to the spots where it first made its appearance.

Local causes of disease in the City itself, were speedily removed wherever found, and the spread of dipthteria, measles, scarlatina and typhoid fever kept in check by a thorough system of isolation, placarding and disinfection.

Vaccination was pursued in a systematic and thorough manner, and the population thus protected as far as possible from the danger of contagion in the event of a visitation of small-pox.

The results of the intelligent and vigorous action of the Board of Health will be better appreciated by observing the marked diminution in the class of preventable diseases, notwithstanding the fact that our population has considerably increased by annexation, immigration and natural growth.

Thus in 1887 there were 1,743 deaths from zymatic diseases, while last year there were not more than 1,610; in 1887 the mortality from dipthteria was 448, from measles 74 and from typhoid fever 101; while last year the deaths from diphtheria numbered 427; from measles, 37 and from typhoid fever 94. No increase took place in the mortality from diarrheal diseases.

Taking into consideration the exceptional difficulties that the Board of Health has to encounter, and the want of cooperation on the part of a large number of the people in the enforcement of sanitary regulations and the carrying out of sanitary measures, the most prejudiced cannot fail to acknowledge that there is cause for congratulation in the statement just referred to.

I trust that during the coming civic year the Council will endeavour to furnish to the Board of Health the means necessary, not only to perfect the measures already in force, but also to enable the Board to carry out still more efficiently the important work intrusted to them.

Last year, our acts of incorporation did not confer sufficient power upon the Council in health matters; but the extension of authority obtained in the new Charter will, it is to be hoped, enable the Health department to cope successfully with its present difficulties.

PUBLIC PARKS.

Our two great parks — Mount Royal and St. Helen's Island — have been well attended to and continue to afford to the public, and to the working classes especially, a source of recreation and amusement which is more and more appreciated every summer.

A beginning was made last year in improving the "Logan Farm Park," and with a limited expenditure every year, as was done for the two other Parks above referred to, this fine tract of land, for the possession of which we are indebted to the liberality of the Federal Government, will no doubt, after a while, become a most attractive spot, to the great benefit and enjoyment of the dense population of the eastern section of this City.

A numerously signed petition was recently submitted to the Council from the residents of the Point St. Charles

district, south of the Lachine Canal, praying for the establishment of a Park on the property known as the "Price Farm."

It is suggested very properly, that by purchasing the whole of that property comprising some 207 arpents, the City might use a portion of it for a settling pond or basin in connection with the Water Works, which could thereafter be formed into an ornamental lake in the proposed Park, in the same manner was been done for the Croton reservoir in the great Central Park of New York.

The suggestion is a good one and as such I commend it to the favorable consideration of the Council.

INUNDATIONS AND HARBOUR IMPROVEMENTS.

There is no subject to my mind more worthy of your serious consideration than this. In fact I consider it the key to our future progress and prosperity. The unanimity with which the Council adopted the resolution to seek power from the Legislature to effect a loan of $1,000,000 for that purpose, and to cooperate with the Government and the Harbour Commissioners in securing the two fold object of relieving the City from floods and improving the harbour, augurs well for the ultimate success of these great undertakings.

So soon as our new Charter becomes law, I presume you will, without delay, pass the necessary by-law and appoint a special committee to give effect to the resolution referred to; and it is to be hoped that the Government and the Harbour Commissioners, on their part, will not fail to do what is expected from them in that regard.

CITY CHARTER.

The consolidated and amended Charter of the City which will shortly pass the Legislature and for which we are

mainly indebted to our distinguished ex-colleague the Honorable J. J. C. Abbott, will be found to be a great improvement upon the fragmentary one which was scattered through innumerable amendments. This Charter confers upon the Council ample legislative and executive powers.

To the proper exercise of these powers carefully prepared by-laws are necessary; hence the expediency of revising and re-codifying our by-laws

Since the last codification, so far back as the year 1865, there have been so many alterations, amendments and repeals, that it is, to-day, a most difficult task to ascertain exactly what our City laws are.

I recommend that a special Committee be at once appointed to revise the by-laws with a view to obtain at as early a day as possible a new compilation of the Charter and by-laws with a comprehensive index and the usual appendix,to be published for public use.

CITY OFFICIALS.

From my long experience and intimacy with the official administration of our civic government, it seems fitting that I should refer to a subject which a Mayor, who has not passed through all the ranks as I have done, cannot be expected to review; and it affords me great pleasure to testify that, notwithstanding the occasional outbursts of newspaper criticism, the officers in charge of the various branches of the civic government fulfil their duties in a diligent and faithful manner, and with an earnest desire to keep their respective departments in as efficient a state as possible.

As regards the department with which I have myself been more closely connected, that of the finance, I have no hesitation in saying that it is now on a footing which would compare favorably with that of any financial insti-

tution with which I am acquainted and, I may say without flattery that, to the manner in which its officers give effect to the wise and prudent legislation and direction of the Council, is due, to some extent, the very high credit that our City enjoys in the money markets of the world.

Whilst on this subject it strikes me I would fail in my duty were I not to allude to the loss the City has recently sustained by the death of two of its oldest officers in the Water and Police departments.

Mr. Lesage's connection with the Water Works dates from their very inception; and the zeal, ability and devotion which he displayed in the management of that important branch of the public service, are too well known to call for any praise at my hands on the present occasion:

Mr. Naegelé, though in a more humble sphere, has served the City well and faithfully during the thirty-five years he has been in the police force.

In paying this tribute of respect to their memory, I beg to suggest, as an act of justice in recognition of the long and faithful services of the deceased, whether it does not behove the Council to make some provision for their widows and children, who, I regret to say, are left unprovided for.

CONCLUSION.

Having thus cursorily gone over the leading topics embraced in the reports of the several departments about to be submitted to you, I will trespass no longer on your forbearance than to say that in assuming the administrative functions of the office of Mayor, it will be my endeavour to follow in the footsteps of my dignified predecessor, and more especially in the modest position taken by him to attend ceremonials on occasions only where such attendance is officially required or called for—a

privilege which I believe I have an equal right to claim from my age, state of health and personal business relations.

In conclusion I confidently trust that our proceedings and debates will be conducted in that spirit of mutual forbearance and with that harmony which our forefathers had no doubt in view when they adopted the beautiful motto engraved on our coat-of-arms—

"CONCORDIA SALUS."

Montreal,
11th March, 1889.

J. GRENIER,
Mayor.